Measuring tree height

This measurement requires two people. Person A stands next to the base of the tree to be measured. Person B backs away from the tree. Holding a ruler, stick, or pencil vertically in an outstretched arm, Person B sights down the outstretched arm to line up the top of the fist with the base of the tree and the top of the stick with the top of the tree. He/she will need to adjust the stick up or down, and may need to vary the distance to the tree (Figure 1). Once this length is established, Person A turns 90 degrees right or left and walks away from the tree. Person B rotates the sighting arm 90 degrees in the same direction holding the top of the fist at the base of the tree and the top of the stick along the path *A* will walk. Person A walks until he/she is in line with the top of *B*'s stick (Figure 2). The estimated height of the tree can be measured in meters as the distance from A to the base of the tree.

Figure 1

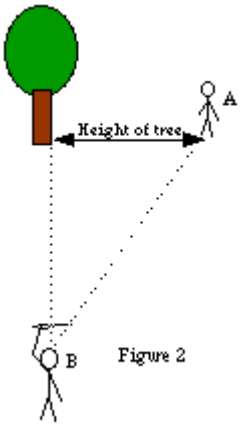

Figure 2

(Text and illustration taken from http://cgee.hamline.edu/Fall/height.html)